



# *Town of* **Acton** *Massachusetts*

## **DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY**

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19, a highly contagious and potentially life-threatening respiratory disease caused by the 2019 Novel Coronavirus, is rapidly becoming more prevalent throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the United States, and the rest of the world; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 10, 2020, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts issued a Declaration of a State of Emergency to Respond to COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization designated the COVID-19 outbreak a Pandemic Health Emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency concerning the COVID-19 outbreak; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 15, 2020, the Governor announced emergency actions to respond to the evolving COVID-19 public health emergency affecting the Commonwealth, including prohibitions on public gatherings of twenty-five or more people and on-premises consumption of food or drink at bars and restaurants from March 17, 2020 until April 6, 2020, as well as suspension of elementary and secondary school educational operations from March 17, 2020 until April 6, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Health of the Town of Acton, in consultation with the State Department of Public Health has determined that COVID-19 presents a major disaster which poses an immediate threat to the health and safety of persons and property within and outside of Acton; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Health of the Town of Acton have determined that immediate public action is needed in order to prevent or minimize the spread of COVID-19 by and among the people of Acton; and

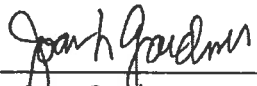
**WHEREAS**, it is critical to take additional steps to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 to protect the health and welfare of the people of Acton; and

**WHEREAS**, declaring a state of emergency will facilitate and expedite the use of resources to protect persons from the impacts of COVID-19, including but not limited to emergency expenditures pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 31 and limitations on operating hours and access to public buildings.


**NOW THEREFORE**, pursuant to Section 4-1(b) of the Acton Town Charter, Chapter 44, Section 31, and Chapter 111, Section 104 of the Massachusetts General Laws, and all other necessary and appropriate powers and authorities, we, the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Health of the Town of Acton, Massachusetts, hereby declare that as of March 10, 2020, a state of emergency has existed and continues to exist in the Town of Acton. This declaration of emergency shall remain in effect until further notice is given, pursuant to our judgment that the conditions leading to this declaration no longer exist.

We the undersigned certify, in multiple counterparts, that the foregoing declaration was made at a meeting of the Acton Board of Selectmen and a meeting of the Acton Board of Health duly noticed pursuant to Open Meeting Law as amended by the Governor's Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law dated March 12, 2020.

Date: March 17, 2020

  
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Name: Joan Gardner  
Title: Chair, Acton Board of Selectmen

Date: March 19, 2020

  
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Name: William McInnis  
Title: Chair, Acton Board of Health